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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KABUL 000467

SIPDIS

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TAGS PGOV, PREL, AF
SUBJECT: NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF CERTAIN KARZAI ADVISORS

REF: KABUL 139

Classified By: CDA Christopher Dell for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C/NF) SUMMARY. Individuals formerly close to President Karzai attribute blame for Karzai's recent unpredictable behavior to the influence of Karzai's Advisor Bubble

2. (C/NF) Many Karzai supporters, some who have been with the president since his transitional administration and 2004 presidential campaign, 3. (C/NF) Palace Chief of Policy Sebghatullah Sanjar said Daudzai feeds the president misinformation and highlights negative coverage of his government. 4. (C/NF) Sanjar describes Karzai as a "lonely and alone man" who suspects his inner circle is leading him in the wrong direction, but does not. 5. (C/NF) FM Spanta objects to Daudzai's conduct on limiting access, including for Spanta, and to Daudzai's policy influence. They have a cool relationship. 6. (C/NF) Information Minister Khoram and Education Minister Wardak get their fair share of criticism as well. Social moderates like Lower House Speaker Khatkhat and Wardak for the president's hesitance to publicly criticize the Taliban and other insurgent groups. United Front members and other contacts in the Taliban. The Hezb-e-Islami Connection

7. (C/NF) Daudzai, Khoram, and Wardak were members of Hezb-e-Islami (HI) in the 1980s, during the mujahideen campaign against Soviet forces. 8. (C/NF) HIA Chairman Arghandawal suspects Daudzai manipulates Karzai's political views, but denies any connection between his party and the president. Conspiracy or Projection?

9. (C/NF) In Afghanistan, all criticism and personal attacks should be taken with a grain of salt and examined carefully for underlying and ulterior motives. 10. (C/NF) For the impartial observer, it is difficult to determine whether these three advisors do indeed have their own agenda or whether Karzai is